

Frontier Airlines Opens Direct Gateway to Mexico

Deseret News, Thursday, June 1, 1950

First direct air connection between Salt Lake City and points in Mexico was opened Thursday with the inaugural flight of Frontier Airlines from Salt Lake City to Nogales, Ariz.

At the same time, the newly organized airline introduced service into all points in Arizona and forged the connections between Billings, Mont., Denver, Salt Lake City, southern Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

John D. Lindsay, district traffic manager of Salt Lake City, gave Capt. Robert Jo Bollinger, pilot of the inaugural flight, letters from Gov. J. Bracken Lee to the governors of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, and a key from Mayor Earl J. Glade. At the same time A. Cano, Mexican consul, presented letters for the special cachet out of Nogales for delivery to President Aleman of Mexico.

Thursday's flight was the first of a two-flight a day schedule which will permit travelers to leave Salt Lake City at 6:30 a.m., or 4 p.m. and arrive in Phoenix seven hours later without any layovers. The morning flight continues on to Nogales and makes connections with Lamsa Airlines for Mexico City, so that a traveler may leave Salt Lake City and be in Mexico City 13 hours later, Mr. Lindsay said.

The line is equipped with new DC-3s which have been adapted to carry 18 passengers instead of the normal 21 to permit ample space for air freight and air express. The tops of the aircraft have been painted white to increase reflection of the sun's rays and reduce cabin temperatures some 10 degrees. The company redesigned the planes to use built-in door steps in which the door is hinged at the bottom so that it may be folded down to permit immediate access and thus eliminate need for loading ramps.

Route mileage will total approximately 4900 miles, making Frontier Airlines larger than eight of the certificated domestic trunk lines, including Braniff, Continental, Mid-Continent, Northeast, Colonial and National Airlines.

The new officers for Frontier Airlines will be: Hal S. Darr, president; Donald A. Duff, vice president for traffic and sales; Ray M. Wilson, vice president of operations; Clarence A. Myhre, vice president and treasurer; H. O. Nelson, Phoenix, Ariz., regional vice president.

Other departmental heads include: Gerald S. Kitchen, cargo sales manager; O. A. Byrne, traffic manager; Miss Irene Repogle, director of passenger service; James Montgomery, superintendent of stations, northern division; Douglas Poth, superintendent of stations, southern division; Edward H. Gerhardt, district traffic manager, Phoenix, Ariz.; Mr. Lindsay, district traffic manager, Salt Lake City; Frank L. Davidson, district traffic manager, Billings, Mont.; Chet R. Lubben, district traffic manager, Denver, Colo.; Richard E. White, district traffic manager, Albuquerque, N. M.